

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Initial and Final Pollution Report**

**DATE:** October 6, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Whitfield Canal Oil Spill

**FROM:** Katrina Jones  
On-Scene Coordinator

**TO:** Region 4, RRC

**I. BACKGROUND**

**FPN:** E03420  
**Site ID:** None  
**Project Ceiling:** \$5,000  
**Lead Agency:** EPA (ADEM PRFA)  
**NPL:** No  
**Funding:** OPA  
**Lead OSC:** Katrina Jones

**II SITUATION**

**Date of Notification:** September 18, 2003 (2132 hours)  
**Date of Action:** September 19, 2003  
**Date of Completion:** September 20, 2003  
**Pollutant:** Engine oil  
**Discharge Quantity:** Estimated 40 - 50 gallons

**III ACTIONS TAKEN**

The Demopolis Fire Department responded to an incident reporting a gasoline smell in the Whitfield Canal which leads to the Tombigbee River (NRC#657302). The incident was originally handled by the local fire department. However, after determining more gasoline was coming from a nearby pipe, they requested assistance from ADEM. ADEM in turn requested a PRFA from EPA to handle the situation with local contractors. ADEM hired U.S. Environmental from Alabaster, AL to conduct the cleanup and assist with determining the source of the oil. Cleanup actions included using boom and absorbent pads for the removal. ADEM along with U.S. Environmental determined that the source was coming from a local automotive shop called L & L Car Care Center. The local wastewater treatment plant was contacted and U.S. Filter who operates the plant determined that the company's drainage system was connected to the local storm drain instead of the sewage treatment system. This company is estimated to be 0.5 miles from

the point where the gasoline was discharging from a pipe into the Whitfield Canal. An estimated 30 yards of the canal was affected. The affected canal leads to the Tombigbee River.

#### **IV FUTURE ACTIVITIES**

No additional cleanup activities are necessary. However, U. S. Filter who operates the local wastewater treatment facility has issued a violation letter to L & L Car Center. In addition, ADEM has issued a letter to the municipal plant regarding the response.

#### **V ESTIMATED COSTS**

ADEM: \$5,000